rice not issuable under PDS have been liquidated by the Food Corporation of India through tender sale at prices below B.P.L.:

(Fig. in lakh tonnes)

| Year | Quantity |
|---|---|
| 1994-95 | 0.78 |
| 1995-96 | 1.26 |
| 1996-97 | 4.51 |
| 1997-98 | 0.10 |
| 1998-99 | 1.66 |
| 1999-2000 | 2.19 |

During 2000-2001 the stock of 'D' category rice have been liquidated on the following prices:—

1. At the rate of Rs. 42^- per quintal in the Region of J&K, Bihar, Delhi, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Assam & NEF;
2. At the rate of Rs. 525/- per quintal in the Region of Tamilnadu, Kerala; and
3. At the rate of Rs. 531/- per quintal in the Region of Rajasthan.

**Super Bazar in various States**

1967. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up fair price shops/Super Bazars4(cndriya Bhandars in various States;

(b) if so, the step taken in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to provide essential commodities to the people Below Poverty Line in the far flung areas; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar are Multi State Cooperative Societies having their own Boards of Management which decide the business operations including opening of branches in various states. The opening of fair price shops remains the responsibility of the State Governments.

(c) and (d) Under the Public Distribution System, foodgrains, sugar and kerosene are being allocated to the State for distribution in all areas including far-flung areas. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) introduced in June, 1997 covers "poor in all areas" and the quantum of foodgrains *viz.* wheat and rice, provided for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families is uniform in all areas including the far flung areas. The allocation of foodgrains BPL families has been increased from 20 Kg. to 25 Kg. Per family per month w.e.f. July, 2001. With effect from 1.2.2001, levy sugar supply under PDS is restricted to BPL families except in case of North Eastern States, Hilly States and Islands Territories where it is allocated for all families. The per capita norm has been enhanced from 425 gram to 500 grams per month so that the BPL beneficiaries would get more benefit.

The allocation of foodgrains, sugar and kerosene is made by the Central Government to the State/Union Territories for distribution through the PDS. The distribution of these commodities within the State including the far-flung areas, and opening of fair price shops is the responsibility of State Government. Foodgrains under TPDS are distributed to the consumers through a net work of over 4.62 lakhs fair prices shops.

**Procurement of rice from Andhra Pradesh State agencies**

1968. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Food Corporation of India togcthcrwith Andhra Pradesh State Government agencies to procure 10 lakhs tonne of rice;